

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024835
ORIGIN AF-10

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R 310243Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, NI, EINV, EFIN, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG)
SUBJ: AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG)
, MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA DEPARTED NEW YORK OVER THE
WEEKEND WITHOUT DISCUSSING AIG CASE WITH EITHER USG
OFFICIALS OR COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG DID NOT DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH GARBA.
MEMBER OF HIS STAFF DID PHONE BRONSON DEDE TO URGE HIM
TO DRAW GARBA'S ATTENTION TO JANUARY 26 LETTER FROM AIG
PRESIDENT GREENBERG TO GARBA. LETTER, HAND DELIVERED
TO NIGERIAN UN MISSION UNDER COVER OF LETTER TO AMBASSADOR
HARRIMAN, REQUESTED MEETING BETWEEN GARBA AND AMERICAN
LIFE CHAIRMAN ABOUZIED DURING FORMER'S STAY IN NEW YORK
OR GARBA/GREENBERG MEETING "AT AN EARLY MUTUALLY
CONVENIENT TIME IN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE OR NIGERIA."

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AIG RECEIVED NO REPLY. AF/W POUCHING COPY OF LETTER.

3. AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS OFFERED TO ADDRESS A LETTER
DIRECTLY TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSIONER (SHUWA, WE
ASSUME) URGING HIM TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM SO AS TO AVOID
ITS BECOMING AN ISSUE DETRIMENTAL TO US/NIGERIAN RELATIONS.
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS. IF IN CONCURRENCE,

PLEASE PROVIDE PROPOSED TEXT FOR LETTER.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MET BRIEFLY WITH AIG VICE PRESIDENT SHELPH ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 26. MOOSE NOTED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH JANUARY 5 LAGOS MEETING; REVIEWED OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A HIGH LEVEL MEETING (INCLUDING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO REPORTED STATE 19485) AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AIG'S PATIENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US IN SEEKING A SOLUTION. SHELPH LIKEWISE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S AND DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS BUT NOTED THAT THE COMPANY WAS GIVING VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO "GOING PUBLIC" WITH THE PROBLEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE IN AIG'S VIEW THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA IS THE LAST POSSIBLE INCENTIVE FOR THE FMG TO COME TO AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

5. IN TELCON WITH AF/W JANUARY 25, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED CASE WITH GARBA AS PROMISED TO MOOSE (SEE STATE 19485) BUT THAT GARBA FELT THAT IT WAS BEING ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN LAGOS AND SHOULD REMAIN THERE. REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY NIGERIAN/AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT GARBARINO TO TALK TO GARBA WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

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6. IN TELCON WITH AF/W JANUARY 30, NOTTINGHAM OF AIG REPORTED THAT COMPANY WOULD BE DECIDING WITHIN WEEK TO TEN DAYS HOW TO "ESCALATE" EFFORTS TO REACH A SOLUTION. PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH US PRIOR TO TAKING ANY ACTION. HE RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT ACTION WE WOULD TAKE NOW AND REITERATED COMPLAINT THAT EMBASSY NOT DOING ENOUGH TO OBTAIN RETURN OF LEFEVRE PASSPORT (STATE 21411). WE RESPONDED THAT AMBASSADOR EASUM WOULD RENEW HIS EFFORTS TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH GARBA UPON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS AND NOTED THAT IN AS MUCH AS LEFEVRE PASSPORT PROBLEM WAS PART AND PARCEL OF THE LARGER ISSUE THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE UNTIL A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WAS ARRANGED TO DEAL WITH THE ENTIRE SITUATION. VANCE

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